

Ukraine

01-31 October 2017

Situational overview: The security situation in eastern Ukraine steadily deteriorated during October, with more than 5,000 ceasefire violations recorded.

Protection concerns: There were over 1.1 million crossings of the five checkpoints in eastern Ukraine; UNHCR continued providing support to improve their capacity and conditions.

Assistance provided: In October, UNHCR provided non-food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter assistance to more than 3,700 people.

KEY INDICATORS

51,000

people reached through **NFI assistance** from UNHCR and partners in 2017.

28,500

IDPs and people at risk of displacement received **legal assistance** from UNHCR partners since January 2017.

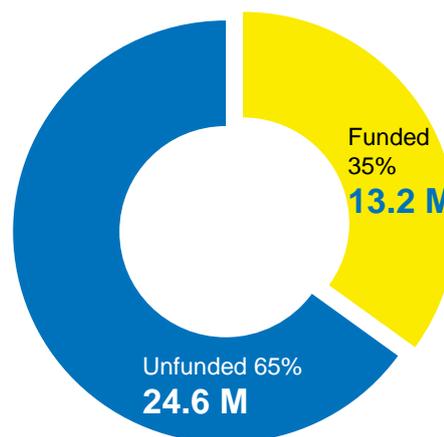
2,430

households in eastern Ukraine received UNHCR **shelter assistance** in 2017.

FUNDING (AS OF 7 NOVEMBER)

USD 37.7 M

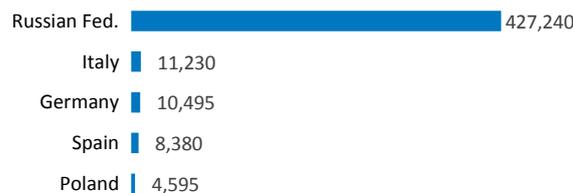
requested for the Ukraine situation



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP)* AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS**

1.8 million

ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE***



* Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).
 ** Estimated number of conflict-affected persons living along the line of contact in GCAs and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).
 *** Source (external displacement): respective government authorities. External displacement data refers to the total number of asylum applications by Ukrainians (first time applications) in the top five receiving countries since the beginning of the Ukraine situation in January 2014.



Update On Achievements

Operational Context

The security situation in eastern Ukraine remained volatile, with fighting concentrated in northern Donetsk, and east of Mariupol in southern Donetsk. On 3 and 4 October, shelling and small arms fire targeted water and centralized heating infrastructure in Donetsk region, jeopardizing water supplies to some 1.2 million persons living in the area and compounding the hardship of winter. At least 12 conflict-related civilian fatalities occurred during October, bringing the total to 411 confirmed civilian fatalities so far in 2017, according to OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) [reports](#). The presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) or landmines in areas near the line of contact continues to cause civilian casualties. In October, the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) recorded some 1,103,100 crossings of the line of contact. UNOCHA's [Humanitarian Snapshot](#) provides an overview of the humanitarian situation.



Children enjoying their lunch in Diuymovochka kindergarten in the conflict-affected town of Horlivka, Donetsk region. The kindergarten was damaged in 2014 and its windows broken. The UN Refugee Agency, through its partner NGO Most, procured and delivered new windows and construction materials required for repairs. The local community took an active part in the repair works to ensure that children have a safe and comfortable learning environment. Photo: UNHCR/Liudmyla Shevtsova

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR, held two workshops on the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergency Settings, jointly with the MHPSS Sub-cluster. These workshops were organized in response to identified needs in eastern Ukraine for a more harmonized approach to the provision of psychosocial support, based on international standards, where psychosocial distress continues to be reported as a key protection concern. The workshops provided an introduction to the IASC Guidelines, and were tailored to protection actors providing psychosocial response, or integrating MHPSS into their existing programming. The Cluster translated the IASC Guidelines into Ukrainian so that they can be used by local and government partners.
- More information on Cluster activities is available in the [October factsheet \[pdf\]](#).

Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- On 11 October, the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs presented its strategy on the integration of IDPs and durable solutions until 2020 for public consultation. The text of the strategy comprises a general overview and problem statement, aims and principles, areas of intervention and implementation mechanisms. The part of the strategy concerning areas of intervention covers protection of property rights, including the right to housing, restitution of lost or damaged property, access to pensions, social and economic rights of IDPs, including employment, education, access to medical services, and support to host communities. While generally welcoming the draft strategy, UNHCR notes that it lacks clear timeframes and indicators related to its implementation. Suggested strategic areas largely focus on small-scale activities, rather than strategic goals. The strategy also requires additional durable solutions in addition to integration. Nonetheless, the document provides a good foundation for further work. UNHCR contributes to development of the strategy together with other international and civil society organizations.
- In October, SBGS recorded 1,103,100 crossings at the five government-controlled checkpoints on the line of contact continuing the trend of over a million people crossing the line of contact each month observed since May. Long queues and waiting times are regularly observed at checkpoints. UNHCR provides a range of support to facilitate freedom of movement and to improve conditions of people waiting to cross the line of contact, detailed in the briefing note on [UNHCR's support at checkpoints \[pdf\]](#).

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners provided over 13,500 legal and protection consultations to IDPs and people at risk of displacement. In central and western Ukraine, UNHCR partner CrimeaSOS provided 475 legal consultations and 273 protection consultations, Desyate Kvitnya provided 150 legal consultations, and Chirikli provided five legal consultations. In government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Slavic Heart provided 190 protection consultations, and Proliska 1,415 protection consultations. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided 887 protection consultation, 364 information consultations, and 94 legal consultations. NRC Legal Aid Centers in Sievierodonetsk, Kramatorsk, and Stanytsia Luhanska assisted 396 visitors and 495 hotline callers. NGO the Right to Protection (R2P) provided 2,161 legal consultations, and 1,846 protection consultations. The UNHCR hotline, managed by R2P, received 191 calls.
- In the non-government controlled area of Donetsk region, UNHCR partners provided 210 information consultations, 1,687 protection consultations, including home visits and hotline consultations, 990 legal consultations, and 1,775 psychosocial consultations. UNHCR's partners also conducted community development training for over 2,000 persons on subjects including personal development, interpersonal communication, personal safety and career advice. In the non-government controlled area of Luhansk region, UNHCR provided 10 protection consultations and 15 hotline consultations. Main concerns of persons assisted were similar in both government and non-government controlled areas, including winterization, access to social assistance and pensions, housing, freedom of movement, civil documentation, access to humanitarian and medical assistance, stress and anxiety caused by the conflict.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter and NFI Cluster led by UNHCR and co-chaired by the NGO People in Need (PiN), updated its [Activity Matrix \[pdf\]](#) for 2018. Building on lessons learned from nearly two years of structural repair and reconstruction projects, agencies recommended dividing the repairs into three categories: medium-heavy repairs, structural repairs, and reconstruction. Several new activities were added to better respond to the particular needs arising in communities near the line of contact, including pilot shutter projects to protect households from shelling. Agencies also identified that approximately 10-15 per cent of households whose homes were conflict-damaged had lost essential furniture. Agencies providing structural and reconstruction projects will also seek to facilitate the replacement of furniture, particularly necessary for older and disabled persons requiring adapted furniture in order to live in their homes.

- Targeted household winterization coverage is around 30 per cent of last year's coverage, while heating assistance is around 57 per cent of last year's coverage. The greatest gap for winterization assistance is for personal items. A recent REACH assessment identified that 28 per cent of people living in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions do not have winter jackets, 35 per cent do not have winter boots, and 13 per cent do not have blankets. The situation is particularly acute in rural areas. In the non-government controlled areas, 6,000 households will receive coal to meet heating needs. The Cluster produced an [interactive map](#) to aid coordination in government-controlled areas.

Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- During October, UNHCR distributed NFI and shelter assistance to some 3,700 people. In government-controlled areas, UNHCR partner PiN provided shelter assistance to 46 households in northern Donetsk region. PiN assisted a further 48 households in southern Donetsk region.
- In the non-government controlled area of Donetsk, UNHCR provided NFIs to NGO partner Maximal for distribution to 14 vulnerable households. The NGO distributed NFIs to 45 people. UNHCR distributed NFIs, including winterization assistance, to 1,614 IDPs and conflict-affected persons in Slovyanoserbsk district, near the line of contact. Over 3,500 UNICEF educational and pre-school kits were distributed by UNHCR to children in settlements near the line of contact. UNHCR also provided 170 hygiene kits and 368 kitchen sets to 34 schools in the area. In the non-government controlled area of Luhansk region, UNHCR distributed NFIs for some 1,200 persons as well as 1,584 UNICEF hygiene kits to 21 social care institutions accommodating persons with mental disabilities. UNHCR provided 22 persons from the Luhansk Blind Society with UNIQLO clothing, and IOM and UNICEF-provided family hygiene kits.

Working in partnership

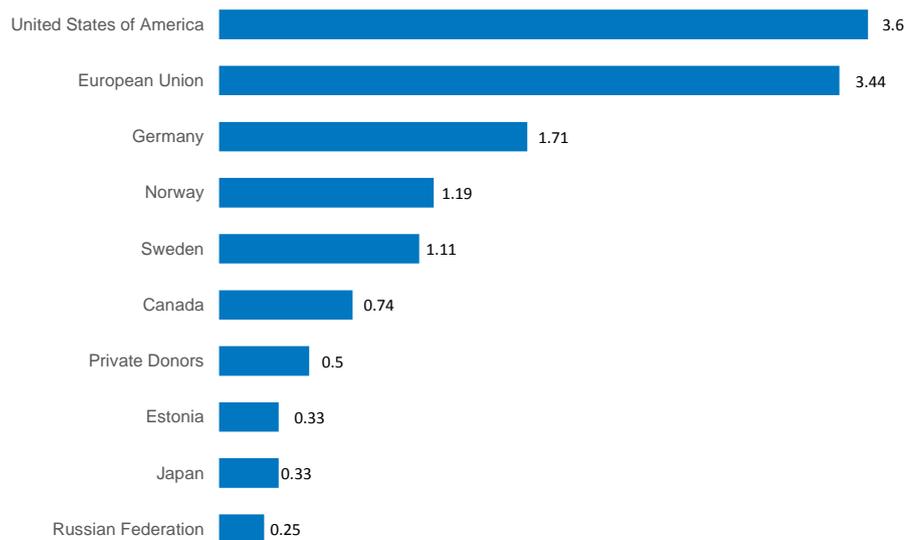
- The humanitarian response to the internal displacement situation in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government, international organizations, national and international NGOs.
- UNHCR signed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry for [Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#) establishing a framework for collaboration and coordination aimed at maximizing the capacity of UNHCR and the Ministry to assist IDPs.
- UNHCR works together with [11 partners](#) as well as other operational partners providing support to IDPs through protection and legal assistance, policy development and capacity building and the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and co-chairs the Shelter and Non-food Item Cluster together with NGO [People in Need](#) (PiN).

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 13.2 million**, including **US\$ 8.9** million for the situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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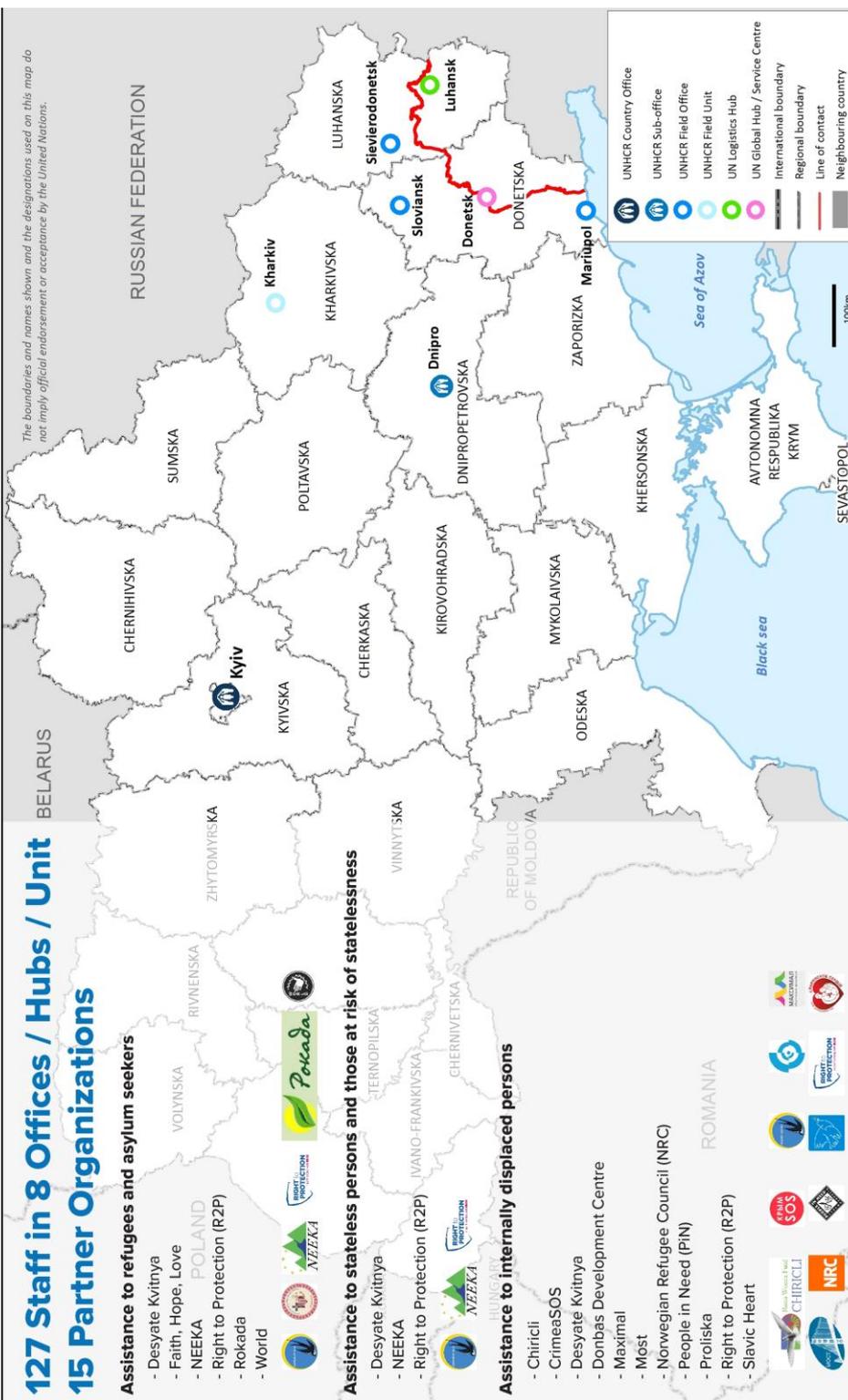
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Annexes

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Date: 21 Jun 2017 Sources: UNHCR Author: UNHCR - Kyiv Feedback: InformationManagement@unhcr.org Filename: UNHCR_presence_Eng_Y1